



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

WEST VIRGINIA WATERSHED NETWORK

In recognition of the West Virginia Watershed Network for their exemplary service and dedication in promoting partnerships for conservation of degraded streams.

The West Virginia Watershed Network is an informal association of interests including State and Federal agencies and nonprofit groups, who are committed to providing resources for watershed management in West Virginia. It is the Network's mission to collaboratively support efforts necessary to empower local residents to make decisions for sustainable management of water resources. Additionally, this partnership provides a way to coordinate the operations of existing water-related programs and activities in West Virginia to better achieve shared watershed management and restoration objectives. One of the Network's undertakings was publishing a Stream Disturbance Permit Booklet and making it available to the public. The Office of Surface Mining requires that all necessary permits be obtained before working in or around streams and wetlands. The Network recognized there was confusion among agencies, non-profit organizations, and others concerning types of permits needed when disturbing streams. Therefore, in March 2007, the Network sponsored a statewide forum to discuss permits required when conducting remedial work in or adjacent to West Virginia streams and wetlands. Representatives from Federal, State, and local government agencies, who regulate and permit such activities, gave presentations on the different permitting processes. At the conclusion of the forum, the Network prepared a single document that briefly described all the various stream disturbance permits and made that available in electronic form to the public. This project was completed September 2007 and the final version of that booklet can be viewed at: http://www.wvca.us/wvwn/wvwn_publications.cfm. Additionally, the Network hosts an annual event called, Watershed Celebration Day, to honor West Virginia citizens who volunteer their time and make an exceptional effort to protect and restore the State's streams. The day includes multiple activities and an awards banquet where organizations and individuals are recognized. Because of their dedication and exceptional efforts to help improve watershed management in West Virginia, the West Virginia Watershed Network is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.